

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body[[,]] comprising:

at least one ~~an assembly of one or more~~ pillar-shaped porous ceramic members,  
member comprising a silicon-ceramic composite material, the silicon-ceramic composite  
material comprising a silicon constituent and a ceramic constituent, the at least one pillar-  
shaped porous ceramic member ~~said assembly of ceramic members~~ having[[,]] a plurality of  
through-holes ~~arranged side by side~~ extending in a longitudinal direction of the assembly at  
least one pillar-shaped porous ceramic member and[[,]] a plurality of partitions separating  
~~one through hole from another, and the through-holes plug at alternate ends of the through-~~  
holes,

wherein the through-holes are plugged such that an opening area at one end face of  
the ~~honeycomb structural body~~ at least one pillar-shaped porous ceramic member is different  
from an opening area at the other end face ~~thereof of the~~ at least one pillar-shaped porous  
ceramic member, and the ceramic members comprise a silicon-ceramic composite material  
~~including a ceramic constituent and a silicon constituent separated from the ceramic~~  
constituent.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1,  
wherein the ~~honeycomb structural body is constructed by having~~ plurality of through-holes  
include a group of large volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively large a sum  
of opening areas at the one end ~~surfaces in a section~~ face perpendicular to the longitudinal  
direction, and a group of small volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively small a  
sum of opening areas at the other [[one]] end ~~small in the other section~~ face.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body[[,]] comprising:

at least one ~~an assembly of one or more~~ pillar-shaped porous ceramic members, member comprising a silicon-ceramic composite material, the silicon-ceramic composite material comprising a silicon constituent and a ceramic constituent, the at least one pillar-shaped porous ceramic member ~~said assembly of ceramic members~~ having ~~[[,]]~~ a plurality of through-holes ~~for the formation of cells arranged side by side~~ extending in a longitudinal direction of the ~~assembly~~ at least one pillar-shaped porous ceramic member and ~~[[,]]~~ a plurality of partitions separating ~~one through-hole from another, and~~ the through-holes ~~plugs at alternate ends of the through-holes,~~

wherein the plurality of through-holes includes ~~the porous ceramic members comprise~~ a group of large volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively large a sum of opening areas at one end ~~surfaces in a section~~ face perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and a group of small volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively small a sum of opening areas at the other ~~[[one]]~~ end ~~small in the other section, and the porous ceramic members comprise a silicon-ceramic composite material including a ceramic constituent and a silicon constituent separated from the ceramic constituent~~ face.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the ~~porous ceramic member~~ plurality of through-holes has a relation that a distance between gravity centers of the large volume through-holes ~~in the section~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is equal to a distance between gravity centers of the small volume through-holes ~~in the section~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein each of the large volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes is made of ~~through-holes~~ s through-hole having a hole size larger than ~~[[that]]~~ a hole size of each of the small volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the large volume ~~through-hole constitutes~~ through-holes comprise a gas inflow side ~~[[cell]]~~ cells opened at an inlet side, and the small volume ~~through-hole constitutes~~ through-holes comprise a gas outflow side ~~[[cell]]~~ cells opened at an outlet side.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the pillar-shaped porous ceramic member has a porosity in a range of 30-80%.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of partitions has a surface roughness in a range of ~~the partition in the porous ceramic member~~ is 1.0-30.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 9 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of partitions has a thickness in a range of ~~the partition in the porous ceramic member~~ is 0.15-0.45 mm.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a half-width value of Si peak ( $2\theta$  = about  $28^\circ$ ) in an X-ray diffraction of the silicon-ceramic composite material is not more than  $0.6^\circ$ .

Claim 11 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of through-holes ~~comprise two kinds of through-holes constituting a group of large volume through-holes~~ is plugged at one end portions with a plugging material and a group of small volume through-holes plugged at the other end portions with a plugging material.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein each of the through-hole is plurality of through-holes has a polygonal shape.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein ~~a sectional shape of the through-hole is~~ through-holes have at least one of a square shape and an octagonal shape.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein each of the through-holes has at least one ~~[[a]] corner part of the section of the through-hole is~~ which has a round or chamfered form.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein an area ratio of ~~section~~ each of the large volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes perpendicular to the longitudinal direction to ~~section~~ each of the small volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (large volume through-hole sectional area/small volume through-hole sectional area) is 1.01–9.00.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein an area ratio of ~~section~~ each of the large volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes perpendicular to the longitudinal direction to ~~section~~ each of the small volume ~~through-hole~~ through-holes perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (large volume through-hole sectional area/small volume through-hole sectional area) is 1.01–6.00.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, further comprising a catalyst coated over at least part of ~~wherein the partition is provided on at least a part of a surface thereof with a coating layer of a catalyst partitions.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the ~~honeycomb structural body of claim 1 is constructed by bundling~~ at least one pillar-shaped porous ceramic member comprises a plurality of ~~[[the]]~~ pillar shaped porous ceramic members bundled through ~~[[the]]~~ a sealing material layer.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the ceramic ~~porous member includes~~ constituent comprises silicon carbide.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A filter for purifying an exhaust gas, comprising the honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, ~~which uses as a filter for purifying an exhaust gas including particular substance from a vehicle.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the ~~silicon-ceramic composite material comprises said segregated silicon~~ ~~[[part]]~~ constituent is interposed among the ceramic ~~[[part]]~~ constituent.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the ~~silicon-ceramic composite material comprises said segregated silicon~~ ~~[[part]]~~ constituent is interposed among the ceramic ~~[[part]]~~ constituent.